

THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

SECT. I.—MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

9 November, 1886.

EDWARD WOODS, President,
in the Chair.

Mr. Woods, President, addressed the meeting in the following terms on assuming the Chair, for the first time, after his election :—

GENTLEMEN,—The honourable distinction which you have been pleased to confer upon me by your election of me as President demands my grateful acknowledgment, and I can only hope that my qualifications for performing the duties of so responsible and important an office may be found in some small measure commensurate with my anxiety to promote and to sustain the interests of the Institution.

I shall need to claim your kind indulgence for whatever may be my shortcomings in this respect.

The difficulty of selecting appropriate matter for an address on the occasion of first occupying this Chair, arises not from the paucity of subjects which it falls within the province of the engineer to consider, but from the fact that my distinguished predecessors in office have already dealt with many of paramount interest, whilst it would seem almost an act of presumption on my part to assume that other topics, to which I may now have occasion to advert, will present any special feature of novelty, or perhaps even of interest to gentlemen whose attention has been specially directed to their consideration.

My connection with our profession dates from the time when I entered into the service of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Company, so that it has been my good fortune to have witnessed, and to have had the opportunity of observing, the gradual and progressive development of the railway system.

The circumstance I have mentioned may perhaps be considered to offer an excuse for my venturing to recall to your notice some of the steps by which this system of inland transport has attained the degree of perfection at which it has now arrived.

Within a period of scarcely six months after the opening of that